

Starter Questions

Solve

$$\log_5(n^2 + 20n) = 3$$

Solve these simultaneous equations.

$$\log x + \log y = 2$$

$$2^{x-6} = 4^{y+2}$$

Q4

Use calculus in kinematics for motion in a straight line:

$v = \frac{dr}{dt}$, $a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2r}{dt^2}$, $r = \int v dt$, $v = \int a dt$; extend to 2 dimensions using vectors.

Assessed at AS and A-level

Teaching guidance

Students should:

- know and be able to apply the following to motion in a straight line:

$$v = \frac{dr}{dt}$$

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2r}{dt^2}$$

$$r = \int v dt$$

$$v = \int a dt$$

- explore the relationship between calculus methods and the constant acceleration equations.

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

If the acceleration is not constant (variable), then the constant acceleration equations **cannot** be used.

Velocity = gradient of s-t graph
(rate of change of displacement over time)

Acceleration = gradient of v-t graph
(rate of change of velocity over time)

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

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Example 1a

An object has displacement, (in km) at time, (in hours) given by the equation: , where

a) Calculate the object's initial velocity:

Initial velocity □

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 1b

An object has displacement, (in km) at time, (in hours) given by the equation: , where

b) Find the object's acceleration when $t = 3$ hours

When :

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Example 2a

The acceleration of an object, in kmh^{-2} , at time hours is given by

Given that its initial velocity is 1 kmh^{-1} , find:

a) Its velocity after 3 hours

When :

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 2a

The acceleration of an object, in kmh^{-2} , at time hours is given by

Given that its initial velocity is 1 kmh^{-1} , find:

a) Its velocity after 3 hours

When :

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 2b

The acceleration of an object, in kmh^{-2} , at time hours is given by

Given that its initial velocity is 1 kmh^{-1} , find:

b) Its displacement after 2 hours

When :

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Example 2b

The acceleration of an object, in kmh^{-2} , at time hours is given by

Given that its initial velocity is 1 kmh^{-1} , find:

b) Its displacement after 2 hours

When :

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 3

At time $t(\text{s})$, an object's displacement $s(\text{cm})$ follows the function:

Find the time at which the object reaches its maximum velocity.

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At time $t(\text{s})$, an object's displacement $s(\text{cm})$ follows the function:

Find the time at which the object reaches its maximum velocity.

Velocity is a maximum when

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 3

At time $t(\text{s})$, an object's displacement $s(\text{cm})$ follows the function:

Find the time at which the object reaches its maximum velocity.

Check maximum:

When ,

When ,

Hence, the object reaches maximum velocity when

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and find the distance between the points where this occurs.

NB: a particle changes direction when ms^{-1}

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and find the distance between the points where this occurs.

When :

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and find the distance between the points where this occurs.

Times when particle changes direction:

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and find the distance between the points where this occurs.

So, from 0 to when , the particle is moving forwards.

From to , the particle is moving backwards.

Then from the particle moves forwards again.

Hence, the particle changes its direction of travel at and , twice.

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and **find the distance between the points where this occurs.**

When :

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 4

A particle moves with acceleration ms^{-2} . It is initially at a point O and is travelling with velocity 2 ms^{-1} . Show that its direction of travel changes twice and **find the distance between the points where this occurs.**

When :

When :

\therefore distance between the points where the particle changes direction is

7.4 Motion for variable acceleration

Example 5

A particle moves in a straight line with constant acceleration, $a \text{ m s}^{-2}$. Given that its initial velocity is $u \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and its initial displacement is 0 m , prove that:

- a its velocity, $v \text{ m s}^{-1}$ at time $t \text{ s}$ is given by $v = u + at$
- b its displacement, $s \text{ m}$, at time t is given by $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$

Sub in ICs:

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